

THE SUNDAY NEWS

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

October 28, 2018

This Week

Sun. Oct 28	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	11:30	Transcendentalism Council Meeting
	11:30	Sunday Forum, Sanctuary
	12:00	Concord Progressive Activists
	12:15	Contemporary Vocal Ensemble
Mon. Oct 29	7:30	Women's Book Group
Tue. Oct 30	9:30	Women's Book Group
	7:00	"Dark Money"
Wed. Oct 31	9:30	Buddhist Group
	7:45	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu. Nov 1	7:30	Buddhist Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri. Nov 2	7:00	AWE Film Series
Sat. Nov 3	10:00	Holiday Artisan's Fair
Sun. Nov 4	9:00	Chalice Choir
	9:00	Gospel Choir
	10:00	Sunday Service
	11:30	Junior Choir
	12:00	Concord Progressive Activists

Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com if you have any questions. Heartfelt thanks for your donations!

Don't Forget the Fair!

Bring yourself and your family and friends to the fun-filled Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 3, open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Entrance fee is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Children under 6 years old, no charge. See you at the fair!

Bring a Photo to the All Souls Service Sunday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.

During our All Souls service, we will create a Communal Altar of Remembrance. Bring a small photo (or copy of a photo) of loved ones who have died. There will be an opportunity for you to place them on our Communal Altar. For those who don't have a photo, there will a slip of paper in the order of service on which you can write their names to place on the altar.

Register Now for "Living Our History" Programs!

Discussion Group: Thoreau's "Walking," Led by Richard Smith Monday, November 5, 7:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room

"Walking" will be sent to registrants. Smith will present Thoreau's reasons for writing "Walking." Participants will discuss their opinions of the essay, and how it relates to modern life. Smith has been a Concord historian for 20 years, portraying Thoreau and lecturing on the Concord authors, Transcendentalism, and the abolitionist movement. To register, drop by or call the First Parish office, 978-369-9602, or contact Dianne Weiss, diannemeweiss@comcast.net. Preregistration with payment is required. Limit: 25 attendees. Fee: \$10.

Concord Area Humanists

"Saving Massachusetts Forests for Climate, Nature, and People"

Wednesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Forests are vital in storing carbon to fight climate change: providing critical habitat for native plants and wildlife; preserving historic and sacred sites; and offering opportunities for nature-based recreation. Yet almost all of our forests are currently open to resource extraction. We must protect our forests. Michael Kellest is cofounder and executive director of "RESTORE: The North Woods," a Massachusetts-based conservation organization. Having over 30 years of experience working to create national parks and wilderness, save forests, and protect wildlife, he will review our challenges and strategies for solving them. Questions? Email Pamela Dritt, pamela@dritt.net; and Franklin Davis, franklin.davis@gmail.com.

"Communing with Our Own Saints:" Tour the Old Hill Burial Ground Saturday, November 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (rain or shine); Meet in Parlor

Learn more about the early history of First Parish. Join local historian Barbara Forman on this tour of our early ministers' portraits in the Parlor, then visit their burial ground across the street. Terrain is steep, so wear comfortable shoes. To register, drop by or call the First Parish office, 978-369-9602, or contact Shelley Hawks at Shelley_Hawks@msn.com. Preregistration with payment required. Limit: 15 attendees. Fee: \$10.

"Social Action Opportunities at FPC"

Because of members' get-out-the-vote activities on Election Day, November 6, the First Tuesday Group will meet on the second Tuesday, November 13, 1:30-3:00 p.m. A panel will discuss the many exciting Social Action Opportunities at First Parish, featuring Zach Roe, Director of Social Action; Tony Rodriguez, Chair of Immigration Justice Task Force; Peter Lowitt, Chair of Environmental Action Team; and Margie King Saphier, Member of Racial Justice Action Group. Come learn how you can get more involved! (While our focus is seniors, please come if you are interested, whatever your years.)

Parish Notes

October's Share the Plate Recipient: Mil Milagros

October's Share the Plate recipient is Mil Milagros—A Thousand Miracles. This organization partners with more than 800 indigenous Mayan mothers and teachers to serve more than 1,300 children each year in early childhood development, nutrition, health and hygiene, and education programs. Rates of chronic child malnutrition and stunting have decreased 50 percent in these communities. An average of 97 percent of the children supported by Mil Milagros complete the sixth grade. Please consider giving generously to October's Share the Plate program to help Mil Milagros expand its reach. There are more than 50 schools and 10,000 children on the waiting list.

"Protecting Transgender Rights: Yes on 3 Campaign"

Today's Forum, October 28, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

The Diversity Committee will host speakers from LexPride to address the following. LGBTQIA+: What does it all mean? The impact of ballot question 3 on civil rights, and one young man's journey. Valerie Overton, cochair of LexPride and lifelong civil rights activist, helps lead the local #YesOn3 campaign to ensure that transgender people are treated equally under the law. Daniel Overton, cochair of Lexington High School's GSA, speaks about LGBTQIA+ issues in high school health classes, teacher trainings, and public meetings. He is an ordinary person who finds himself in the extraordinary position of having to defend his right to exist in public places.

Székelykeresztúr Student Scholarship Program

Each year generous participants in our Székelykeresztúr Student Scholarship Program help make high school and college education possible for 40 to 50 deserving students from the Hungarian minority population from Székelykeresztúr and area villages and towns by helping offset the costs of their room and board in the dormitory at the Unitarian school in Székelykeresztúr. We still have three freshman who need a sponsor. We send them \$400 a year. Please come by our table at coffee hour and pick out your student from the letters and pictures they have sent us. Continuing donors, please send in your contribution. Big thanks to those who have done so already!

Drop-Off Dates for Fair Donations

Your donations to the WPA Fair Boutique can be dropped off either on Wednesday, October 31, or Thursday, November 1. Please bring them to the Bulkeley Room behind the stage on these dates. The WPA is looking for handmade items as well as high-quality, like-new items, such as jewelry, artwork, home goods, holiday decorating items, etc. Please contact Melita

The Sunday News deadline is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to
Sarah Burns, sburns@firstparish.org.

The Sunday News can be read online at www.firstparish.org.

A Change to the Red Mugs

Have you ever wondered what the red mug at coffee hour means? It means the person holding the mug is eager and willing to engage in conversation, answer any questions, or provide information pertaining to First Parish. It will often be a member of the Membership Committee (but not necessarily), as the goal is to invite interactions among our congregational community. The role has been reversed from what it was. The Membership Committee felt that often a new person may have felt uncomfortable taking the first step, and therefore may have chosen not to take the mug. We hope that this new approach will encourage many new relationships among our growing congregation.

Social Action

EAT to Provide Preparedness Materials

Environmental Action Team to provide Climate Change Emergency Preparedness bags and checklists to Parishioners at Sunday's coffee hour.

Thank-You to Crop Walk Participants

Many thanks to all who participated in last Sunday's Crop Walk for the Hungry, either as walkers, donors, or volunteers. It's not too late to make a donation sponsoring Howard, who walked; you can do so online here: <https://tinyurl.com/y88bmn7s>. The Crop Walk raises funds to feed the hungry and address the root causes of hunger in our local communities, and around the globe.

"Dark Money," Free Film Screening and Discussion

Tuesday, October 30, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Produced and directed by Kimberly Reed, "Dark Money" is a political thriller that examines one of the greatest present threats to American democracy: the influence of untraceable corporate money on our elections and elected officials. Jeff Clements, president of American Promise, and the major force behind Massachusetts Ballot Question #2, which would help address these dark money issues, will introduce the film and lead a discussion about the ballot question. This event is sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy in collaboration with POV, the award-winning independent nonfiction film series on PBS, www.pbs.org/pov/. Refreshments! Questions? Contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeusen@gmail.com.

AWE Free First Friday Feminist Film Series

Friday, November 2, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

We'll show *The Hunting Game*, a documentary that focuses on the epidemic of sexual assaults at U.S. colleges. This often-harrowing documentary combines the recollections of victims with disturbing statistics demonstrating the depth of the problem, while officials continue to downplay the issue. Contact: Lou Toussaint (mloutoussaint@gmail.com).

Carpool to the Empty Bowls Event at Newbury Court

On Sunday, November 4, at 12:15 p.m., First Parish members are invited to carpool together to attend the Empty Bowls event at Newbury Court in Concord. Please look for the Open Table table at coffee hour after church to gather to drive over together. Parking is limited so carpooling is recommended. Suggested donation for a ceramic bowl made by the Newbury Court residents is \$25, plus a bowl of soup and bread. All proceeds will go to addressing local hunger. The event lasts from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Carpool participants will manage departure based on riders, needs to return to First Parish. Questions? Contact jeaninecalabria@comcast.net.

How Democracies Die— Sponsored by Reclaim Our Democracy Sunday, November 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Donald Trump's presidency has raised a question that many of us never thought we'd be asking: Is our democracy in danger? Harvard professors Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt have spent more than 20 years studying the breakdown of democracies in Europe and Latin America and have written this *New York Times* best seller. They will be discussing the book, showing us how democracies die, and how ours can be saved. After their talk, the book will be available for purchase and there will be a book signing. Refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net.

Amnesty International, Group 15

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greeley Room

Amnesty International/USA's senior director of organizing and activism, Cynthia Gabriel Walsh, will bring the group up-to-date on national plans and priorities for the coming year. Ongoing activities include sending letters to support individuals whose dire situations require urgent action, efforts to end the death penalty, and the release of two Azerbaijanian students

imprisoned for peaceful protests. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Nancy Lyons, nilyons22@gmail.com or 978-505-1936.

"How to Have Difficult Conversations About Race Without Losing Your Cool or Your Voice"

**Talk by Dr. Amanda Kemp, Author of *Say the Wrong Thing* and creator of the Racial Justice from the H.E.A.R.T. Method
Thursday, November 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary**

Join us for a rare opportunity to learn from an African-American racial justice mentor who offers clear advice for staying mindful and finding our voice as we navigate difficult conversations about race at home and in the wider world. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Action Group and Robbins House. Contact Mary Ann Barton, mabartonst@gmail.com, 978-580-5852.

Religious Exploration

This Week, October 28: Religious Exploration

9:15 a.m. – UU Explorers, Grade 8 – Meet in the Chapel. Visit First Parish UU, Arlington, Mass.

9:45 a.m. – Little RE (0-4yrs) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Activists, Grade 6– Sleepy Hollow Tour, Return around 11:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. – Neighboring Faiths, Grade 7– Brooks Room

Children in Kindergarten through Grade 6 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classrooms with their teachers. All RE sessions are held until 11:15 a.m. Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2– Lower Level

Grade 3– Ripley and Greeley Rooms– Upper Level

Grades 4 & 5– Wright Tavern

4:00- 6:00 p.m. – Coming of Age with mentors– Parish Hall

6:00- 8:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Wright Tavern

Next Week, November 4: Religious Exploration

Rev. Gary Smith Offers Tour of Sleepy Hollow

Our 6th graders will meet at 10:00 a.m. on the front steps for our annual tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Rev. Gary Smith, our Minister Emeritus, will offer stories about our spiritual ancestors buried there. The group will lay roses on the graves as a sign of our respect. The group will return to First Parish by 11:30 a.m.

Three Cheers for Neighboring Activists Team!

Congratulations to our Neighboring Activists team of 6th graders who helped to end hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk last Sunday. They won a prize in the banner contest. Keep up the good work!

Grade 8 OWL Parent Orientation

Sunday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Emerson Room

"Our Whole Lives" (OWL), the comprehensive sexuality program, will be offered to 8th graders at First Parish in Concord beginning in January. The goals of the program are to help young people learn about safe sexual relationships in the context of Unitarian Universalist principles, to help them make responsible decisions, and to increase their understanding and respect for themselves and others. For your teen to be enrolled in OWL, both parents are required to attend a First Parish Parent Orientation. Sign-up Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAAAC29A5FF2-8thgrade>.

December 2018 Meeting House News Deadline

Tuesday, November 13, 12:00 Noon

Keep the article length to 100 words and send to the Editor,

Wendy Wolfberg, wolfberg@post.harvard.edu.

The December 2018 edition will be published November 27.